

1 CLAIMS

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3 What is claimed is:

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5 1. A method comprising:
6 providing an initial digital good to at least one computer; and
7 converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good using unique
8 key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good, such that the modified
9 digital good is operatively different in configuration, but substantially functionally
10 equivalent to the initial digital good.

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12 2. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein converting the initial digital
13 good into the modified digital good using unique key data to selectively
14 individualize the initial digital good further includes manipulating at least one
15 flow control operation within the initial digital good.

16
17 3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
18 generating the unique key data based on at least one unique identifier data
19 associated with a destination computer.

20
21 4. A method as recited in claim 3, further comprising:
22 selectively limiting operation of the modified digital good to computers that
23 ~~are properly associated with at least the unique identifier data.~~

1 5. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein generating the unique key
2 data further includes:

3 causing the destination computer to provide the unique identifier data
4 associated with the destination computer to a source computer; and

5 causing the source computer to cryptographically generate the unique key
6 data based on the unique identifier data provided by the destination computer and
7 at least one secret key.

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10 6. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the unique key data includes
11 at least a first key and a second key, and the first key and the second key are
12 different, but cryptographically related to the secret key.

13
14 7. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein providing an initial digital
15 good to the computer further includes:

16 dividing the initial digital good into at least a first portion and a second
17 portion using a source computer;

18 providing the first portion to a destination computer via a first computer
19 readable medium; and

20 subsequently providing the second portion to the destination computer via a
21 second computer readable medium.

1 8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein the first computer readable
2 medium includes a different type of computer readable medium than the second
3 computer readable medium.

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5 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the first computer readable
6 medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and the second computer
7 readable medium includes a network communication.

8
9 10. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein providing the second
10 portion to the destination computer further includes:

11 converting the second portion into a modified second portion using the
12 unique key data to selectively manipulate at least one flow control operation
13 within the second portion, such that the modified second portion is operatively
14 different in configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the second
15 portion; and

16 providing the modified second portion to the destination computer via the
17 second computer readable medium, in place of the second portion.

18
19 11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the source computer is
20 ~~used to convert the second portion into a modified second portion.~~

1 12. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the unique key data
2 includes at least a first key and a second key, and converting the second portion
3 into a modified second portion further includes using the second key to selectively
4 manipulate at least one flow control operation within the second portion.

5
6 13. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein the unique key data
7 includes at least a first key and a second key, and providing the second portion to
8 the destination computer further includes providing the first key to the destination
9 computer.

10
11 14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein converting the initial
12 digital good into a modified digital good further includes

13 converting the first portion into a modified first portion using the first key
14 to selectively manipulate at least one flow control operation within the first
15 portion, such that the modified first portion is operatively different in
16 configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the first portion; and

17 causing the destination computer to operatively combine the modified first
18 portion and the modified second portion to produce the modified digital good.

19
20 15. A method as recited in claim 13, further comprising:
21 selectively limiting operation of the modified digital good to computers that
22 ~~are properly associated with at least the first key.~~

1 16. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein causing the destination
2 computer to provide the unique identifier data associated with the destination
3 computer to the source computer further includes:

4 accessing computer identification data within the destination computer and
5 including the computer identification data within the unique identifier data
6 associated with the destination computer.

7
8 17. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein causing the destination
9 computer to provide the unique identifier data associated with the destination
10 computer to the source computer further includes:

11 receiving user identification data at the destination computer and including
12 the user identification data within the unique identifier data associated with the
13 destination computer.

14
15 18. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable
16 instructions for:

17 receiving an initial digital good;

18 receiving unique key data; and

19 converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good using the
20 unique key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good, such that the
21 modified digital good is operatively different in configuration, but substantially
22 functionally equivalent to the initial digital good.

23
24 19. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein
25 ~~converting the initial digital good into the modified digital good using the unique~~

1 key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good further includes
2 manipulating at least one flow control operation within the initial digital good.

3
4 20. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, comprising
5 further computer-executable instructions for:

6 determining if a host computer is properly associated with at least the
7 unique identifier data ; and

8 disabling operation of the modified digital good if the host computer that is
9 not properly associated with the unique identifier data.

10
11 21. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, comprising
12 further computer-executable instructions for:

13 causing the host computer to provide unique identifier data associated with
14 the host computer to at least one source computer that is configurable to
15 cryptographically generate the unique key data based on the unique identifier data
16 and at least one secret key.

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1 22. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 18, wherein:
2 receiving an initial digital good further includes receiving a first portion of
3 the digital good via a first type of computer readable medium and a modified
4 second portion of the digital good via a second computer readable medium; and
5 converting the initial digital good into a modified digital good further
6 includes converting the first portion using the unique key data to selectively
7 manipulate at least one flow control operation within the first portion, to produce a
8 modified first portion that is operatively different in configuration, but
9 substantially functionally equivalent to the first portion, and then operatively
10 combining the modified first portion and the modified second portion to produce
11 the modified digital good.

12
13 23. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 22, wherein the
14 first computer readable medium includes a different type of computer readable
15 medium than the second computer readable medium.

16
17 24. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 23, wherein the
18 first computer readable medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and
19 ~~the second computer readable medium includes a network communication.~~

1 25. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein
2 causing the host computer to provide unique identifier data further includes:

3 accessing computer identification data within the host computer and
4 including the computer identification data within the unique identifier data
5 associated with the host computer.
6

7 26. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 20, wherein
8 causing the host computer to provide unique identifier data further includes:

9 receiving user identification data and including the user identification data
10 within the unique identifier data associated with the host computer.
11

12 27. A computer-readable medium comprising computer-executable
13 instructions for:

14 receiving unique identifier data associated with a host computer;
15 generating unique key data based on at least the unique identifier data;
16 converting at least a portion of an initial digital good using the unique key
17 data to selectively individualize the portion of the initial digital good, such that a
18 modified portion of the digital good is produced that is operatively different in
19 configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the initial portion of the
20 digital good; and

21 providing at least the modified portion of the digital good and at least a
22 portion of the unique key data to the host computer.
23

24 28. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 27, wherein
25 ~~converting at least the portion of the initial digital good using the unique key data~~

1 to selectively individualize the portion of the initial digital good further includes
2 manipulating at least one flow control operation within the portion of the initial
3 digital good.

4
5 29A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 27, wherein generating
6 the unique key data further includes:

7 cryptographically generating the unique key data based on the unique
8 identifier data provided by the host computer and at least one secret key.

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10 30. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 29, wherein the
11 unique key data includes at least a first key and a second key, and the first key and
12 ~~the second key are different, but cryptographically related to the secret key.~~

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31. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 29, wherein converting at least portion of the initial digital good using the unique key data further includes:

dividing the initial digital good into at least a first portion and a second portion;

providing the first portion to the host computer via a first computer readable medium;

converting the second portion using the second key to selectively manipulate at least one flow control operation within the second portion, such that a modified second portion is produced that is operatively different in configuration, but substantially functionally equivalent to the second portion ; and

providing the modified second portion and the first key to the host computer via a second computer readable medium.

32. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the first computer readable medium includes a different type of computer readable medium than the second computer readable medium.

33. A computer-readable medium as recited in claim 32, wherein the first computer readable medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and ~~the second computer readable medium includes a network communication.~~

1 38. An arrangement as recited in claim 34, further comprising:
2 a program combiner configured to receive a modified first portion of the
3 digital good from the individualizer and a modified second portion from the source
4 computer, and output the modified digital good by combining the modified first
5 portion with the modified second portion.

6
7 39. An arrangement as recited in claim 34, wherein the modified digital
8 good is operatively configured to selectively verify that the host computer is
9 properly associated with the unique identifier data output by the identifier.

10
11 40. An arrangement as recited in claim 34, wherein the modified digital
12 good is operatively configured to selectively verify that the host computer is
13 properly associated with the unique key data.

14
15 41. An arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the identifier is
16 further configured to access computer identification data within the host computer
17 and include the computer identification data within the unique identifier data
18 associated with the host computer.

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20 42. An arrangement as recited in claim 37, wherein the identifier is
21 further configured to receive user identification data at the host computer and
22 include the user identification data within the unique identifier data associated
23 with the host computer.

1 43. An arrangement for use in a source computer, the arrangement
2 comprising:

3 a key generator configured to receive a unique identifier data from a
4 destination computer and generate unique key data based on the received unique
5 identifier data associated with the destination computer; and

6 an individualizer configured to receive the unique key data and at least a
7 portion of an initial digital good and output at least a portion of a modified digital
8 good using the unique key data to selectively individualize the initial digital good,
9 such that the modified digital good is operatively different in configuration, but
10 substantially functionally equivalent to the initial digital good.

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12 44. An arrangement as recited in claim 43, wherein the individualizer is
13 further configured to selectively individualize the initial digital good by
14 manipulating at least one program flow control operation within the initial digital
15 good.

16
17 45. An arrangement as recited in claim 43, further comprising:
18 a splitter configured to divide the initial digital good into at least a first
19 portion and a second portion, provide the first portion to the individualizer, and
20 ~~provide the second portion to the destination computer.~~

1 46. An arrangement as recited in claim 45, wherein the key generator is
2 further configured to cryptographically generate the unique key data based on the
3 unique identifier data and at least one secret key, the unique key data includes at
4 least a first key and a second key which are unique, but cryptographically related
5 to the secret key, and wherein the key generator is configured to provide the first
6 key is to the individualizer, and the second key to the destination computer.

7
8 47. An arrangement as recited in claim 46, wherein the individualizer is
9 further configured to use the second key to selectively individualize the second
10 portion, such that a resulting modified second portion is operatively different in
11 configuration from the second portion, but substantially functionally equivalent to
12 the second portion.

13
14 48. An arrangement as recited in claim 45, wherein the splitter is further
15 configured to allow the first portion to be provided to the destination computer via
16 a first computer readable medium, and to provide the modified second portion to
17 the destination computer via a second computer readable medium that is a
18 different type of computer readable medium than the first computer readable
19 medium.

20
21 49. An arrangement as recited in claim 48, wherein the first computer
22 readable medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and the second
23 computer readable medium includes a network communication.

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1 50. A system comprising:
2 an identifier configured to output unique identifier data associated with a
3 computer;
4 a key generator coupled to receive the unique identifier data and generate at
5 least one unique key data based on the received unique identifier data; and
6 at least one individualizer configured to receive the unique key data and at
7 least a portion of an initial digital good and output at least a portion of a modified
8 digital good using the unique key data to selectively individualize the initial digital
9 good, such that the modified digital good is operatively different in configuration,
10 but substantially functionally equivalent to the initial digital good.

11
12 51. A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the individualizer is further
13 configured to selectively individualize the initial digital good by manipulating at
14 least one program flow control operation within the initial digital good.

15
16 52. A system as recited in claim 50, further comprising:
17 at least one source computer; and
18 at least one destination computer coupled to the source computer.

19
20 53. A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identifier is provided
21 within the destination computer and is configured to output unique identifier data
22 associated with the destination computer to the source computer, and the key
23 ~~generator and individualizer are each provided within the source computer~~

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25

1 54. A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identifier is provided
2 within the destination computer and is configured to output unique identifier data
3 associated with the destination computer to the source computer, the key generator
4 is provided within the source computer, and the individualizer is provided within
5 the destination computer.

6
7 55. A system as recited in claim 52, wherein the identifier is provided
8 within the destination computer and is configured to output unique identifier data
9 associated with the destination computer to the source computer, the key generator
10 is provided within the source computer, a first individualizer is provided within
11 the destination computer, and a second individualizer is provided within the source
12 computer.

13
14 56. A system as recited in claim 55, further comprising:
15 a splitter provided within the source computer and configured to divide the
16 initial digital good into at least a first portion and a second portion, provide the
17 first portion to the first individualizer, and provide the second portion to the
18 second individualizer.

57. A system as recited in claim 56, wherein the key generator is further configured to cryptographically generate the unique key data based on the unique identifier data and at least one secret key, the unique key data includes at least a first key and a second key which are unique, but cryptographically related to the secret key, the first key is provided to the first individualizer, and the second key is provided to the second individualizer.

58. A system as recited in claim 57, wherein the first individualizer is further configured to use the first key to selectively individualize the first portion, such that the resulting modified first portion is operatively different in configuration from the first portion, but substantially functionally equivalent to the first portion.

59. A system as recited in claim 58, wherein the second individualizer is further configured to use the second key to selectively individualize the second portion, such that the resulting modified second portion is operatively different in configuration from the second portion, but substantially functionally equivalent to the second portion.

60. A system as recited in claim 59, further comprising:
a combiner provided within the destination computer and configured to receive the modified first portion from the first individualizer and the modified second portion from the second individualizer, and output the modified digital good by combining the modified first portion with the modified second portion.

1 61. A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the modified digital good is
2 operatively configured to selectively verify that the destination computer is
3 properly associated with the unique identifier data output by the identifier.

4
5 62. A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the modified digital good
6 is operatively configured to selectively verify that the destination computer is
7 properly associated with the first key as provided by the key generator.

8
9 63. A system as recited in claim 56, wherein the first portion is provided
10 to the destination computer via a first computer readable medium, the modified
11 second portion is provided to the destination computer via a second computer
12 readable medium that is a different type of computer readable medium than the
13 first computer readable medium.

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15 64. A system as recited in claim 63, wherein the first computer readable
16 medium includes a fixed computer readable medium and the second computer
17 readable medium includes a network communication.

18
19 65. A system as recited in claim 50, wherein the identifier is further
20 configured to access computer identification data within a destination computer
21 and include the computer identification data within the unique identifier data
22 associated with the destination computer.

1 66. A system as recited in claim 45, wherein the identifier is further
2 configured to receive user identification data at a destination computer and include
3 the user identification data within the unique identifier data associated with the
4 destination computer.
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